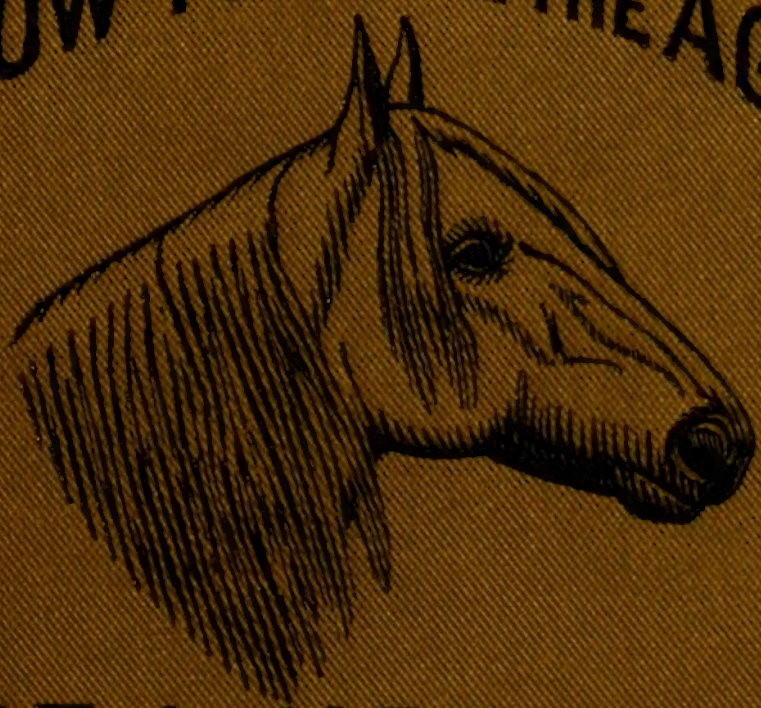
HOW TO TELL THE AGE.



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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

HOW TO TELL

THE

AGE OF A HORSE.

A POCKET MANUAL,

Giving full information of the methods employed by Professional Horsemen and Veterinarians to determine the Age of Horses, with numerous illustrations, showing the shape of the teeth at different ages.

AND A

CHAPTER ON HORSE CHARACTER,

OR HOW TO DETERMINE THE DISPOSITION OF A HORSE, WITH PORTRAITS OF SEVERAL FAMOUS TROTTERS AND THOROUGH-BREDS.

By Prof. J. M. HEARD,

Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, London, and Professor of Clinical Surgery and Surgical Pathology in the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons.

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PREFACE.

THE preparation of this little work was suggested by Mr. M. T. Richardson, publisher of the *Blacksmith and Wheelwright*, who some time ago had occasion to attempt the purchase of a horse. Although he had a copious library to draw upon, containing many books on horses, he was unable to find anything of practical value to aid him in determining the ages of the horses he looked at. Notwithstanding many of the books alluded to were illustrated, the methods

of illustration were confusing, and the size of the books made it impracticable for him to take them with him for reference when wanted. An attempt has been made in the following pages to simplify both the illustrations and the descriptive matter, with the view of producing a work which can easily be carried in the pocket so as to be available at any moment.

In order not to confuse the searcher after knowledge, the shading which would be required to represent the uneven surface of the teeth is omitted, and they are left white on top, with only the spots standing out plain and distinct.

It is believed by the author that a diligent study of these pages and a comparison of the engravings with the teeth, will make almost any one proficient in determining the ages of horses in a short time.

The engravings have been made with especial care, but the student should bear in mind that the teeth of no two horses are exactly alike. The general conformation, however, will be found, it is believed, more nearly accurate than anything else in print.

THE AUTHOR.

May 15, 1884.

HOW TO TELL

THE

AGE OF A HORSE

PART I.

CHAPTER I.

TO persons buying, and selling, or trading in horses, it is of the highest importance that a nearly correct opinion of the age of the animal may be formed.

At a very early period this fact was fully recognized, and an attempt was made to formulate rules for the guidance of persons interested in the age of the horse.

Of course, every trained horseman will recognize the lightness and elasticity of step of the youthful horse as compared with middle-aged or older animals.

One of the general indications of age is the angular appearance of the lower jaw as seen in old horses; there is, also, a different appearance to the eyes and countenance generally. These, however, are only general appearances, and liable to considerable variation in different individuals.

To definitely get at the age of horses, there must be recognized some structure of the animal which is little liable to change, and which

can easily be examined. The only organs answering this purpose are the teeth, and even the teeth are not an infallible guide to age, as we occasionally find deviations from the usual standard. Yet they are the only guide that can be safely trusted with any degree of confidence.

Rules for ascertaining the age by an inspection of the teeth are based on a very large number of investigations, and any deviation therefrom will be found rare, and an exception to the general principles laid down in the following pages.

Chapter II.

The incisors of the lower jaw are the teeth that are generally examined to determine the age of the horse. These are the six teeth situated in the front of the jaw.

The tushes are a partial indication, and might assist the judgment in a doubtful case, but it is very seldom that much weight is given to, or in fact much notice taken of, the appearance of any of the teeth, except the incisors of the lower jaw.

In this description we shall speak

of the six incisors as *nippers*, and the middle pair, or those situated in the middle of the row and at

Fig. 1.—Showing Lower Jaw at 2½ Years. A A. Central Nippers. B B. Middle Nippers. C C. Corner Nippers.

the extreme front (see Fig. 1), A A, will be described as the *central nippers*. The second pair, B B, are the *middle nippers*, and the third

pair, C C, are the *corner nippers*. As will be seen, this figure represents the appearance of the nippers in the lower jaw at 2½ years.

The central nippers are just through the gum, and are therefore the first permanent pair. The middle and corner nippers in this engraving represent the temporary teeth which will remain for a year and two years respectively from this period.

We must here notice the difference in size between the temporary and permanent teeth. It is seen at a glance that the permanent teeth are very much larger than the temporary. At this age we

find one large pair, only recently cut, and two small pairs, one of which will give way to a permanent pair at 3½ years, and the other

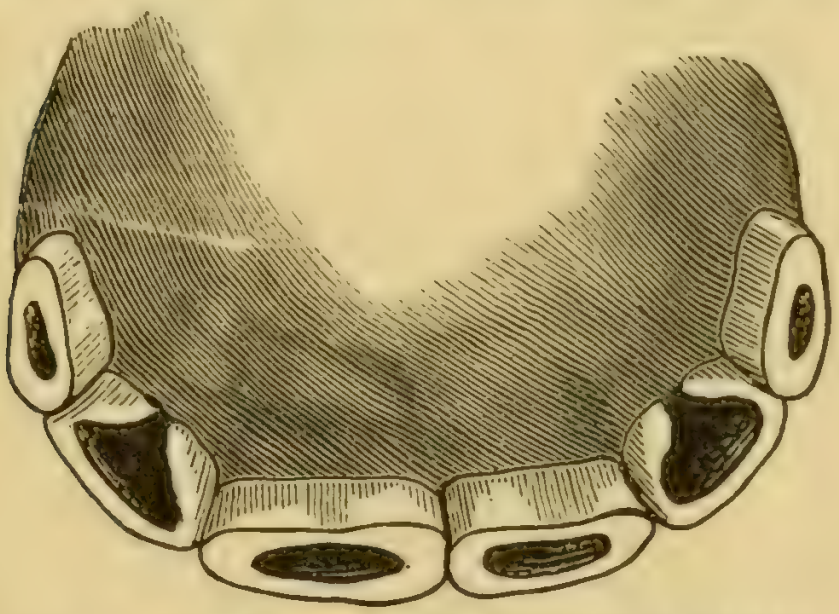

Fig. 2 SHOWS A LOWER JAW AT 3½ YEARS.

pair will be replaced by permanent teeth at 4½ to 5 years.

When we come to about this age we notice (see Fig. 2) that a radical

change has taken place. As will be seen, the second pair, or middle temporary nippers, have given way and in their place has appeared the second pair of permanent nippers, which at this age have the same appearance that the central pair did at 2½ years. The central nippers themselves have changed somewhat, and are commencing to show the wear to which they have been subjected since they were cut. We notice that the marks are not so large nor as deep as in Fig. 1. We still have the temporary corner nippers, which, of course, are very much smaller than either of the permanent pairs.

However, no mistake need be made, as it will be easily seen that the middle pair have not been cut for any length of time.

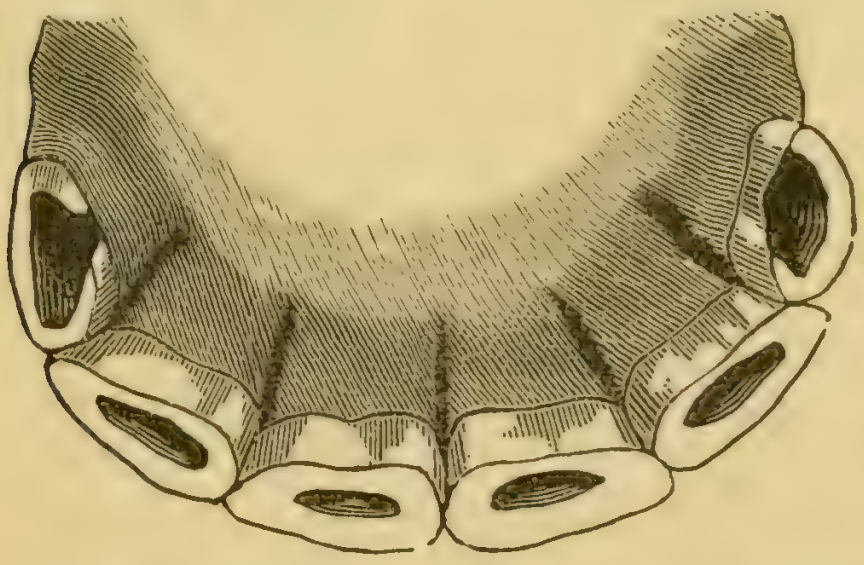

Fig. 3 SHOWS THE LOWER JAW AT 5 YEARS.

The next step in our description brings us to Fig. 3, which shows the condition of the teeth at 4½ to 5 years old. Here we have what is termed a full mouth; that

is, all the permanent nippers are up, and the temporary ones of course are all shed. Changes, too, have taken place in the permanent teeth; which we must examine very closely, as we have no brake to stop us now, as we had while the temporary teeth were in their places.

We could then say, "This horse is not 5 years old, or he is not 4 years old, as he shows one or two pairs of temporary teeth." Now we must look entirely to the marks or spots in the middle of the teeth for our guidance.

Unprincipled dealers, availing themselves of the services of skill-

ed dentists, attempt to imitate this age more than any other perhaps in old horses, as seen in Fig. 20, p. 36. The novice in such matters should always be on his guard against such fraud, for to an ordinary observer the teeth prepared as described, very much resemble those of a 5-year-old horse.

In the accompanying engraving, Fig. 3, it will be seen that the corner nippers have about the same appearance as the middle pair in Fig. 2, and the central pair in Fig. 1. They have not been up long enough to sustain any appreciable wear, and they have very deep, full marks. The central pair, however,

are worn, so that a considerable proportion of the mark has disappeared, leaving only a small black

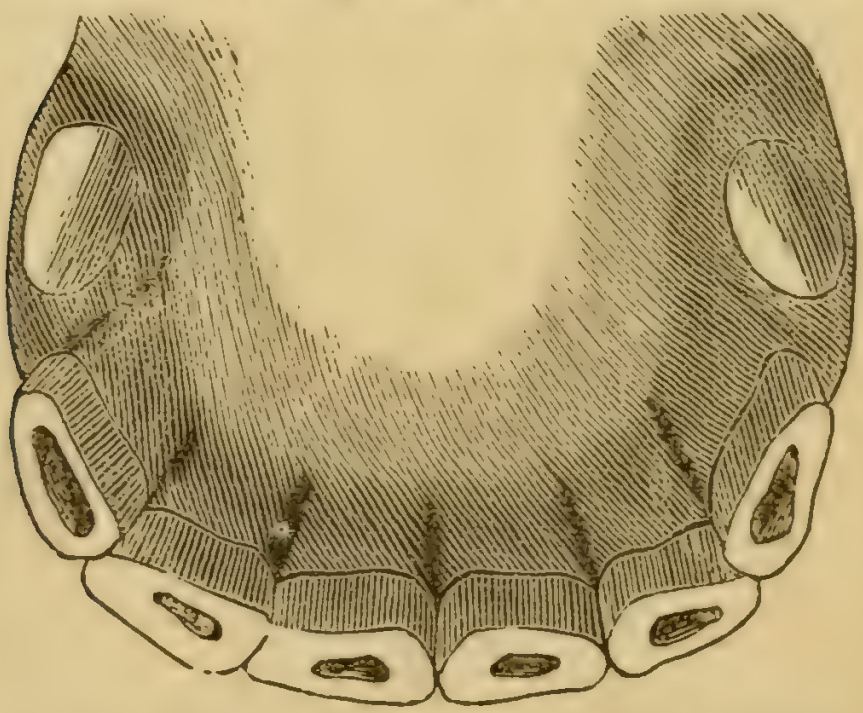

Fig. 4 SHOWS THE LOWER JAW AT 6 YEARS.

spot; but it will be noticed that the shape of the tooth has not changed as yet, as it will when the animal grows older.

Instead of the oval shape that the teeth present now, at 9 years and after, they will be more triangular. This appearance is well represented in Fig. 14. The middle nippers at 5 years have considerably changed from the appearance of a year previous. The marks are not so large, but still preserve a respectable size and depth.

We find in Fig. 4, which represents a 6-year-old mouth, that the central nippers have lost all their marks except a comparatively small speck. The middle pair have lost much of the mark, as seen at 5 years old in Fig. 3, and they resemble the central pair in that fig-

ure. The corner nippers, too, have lost some of their full marks which

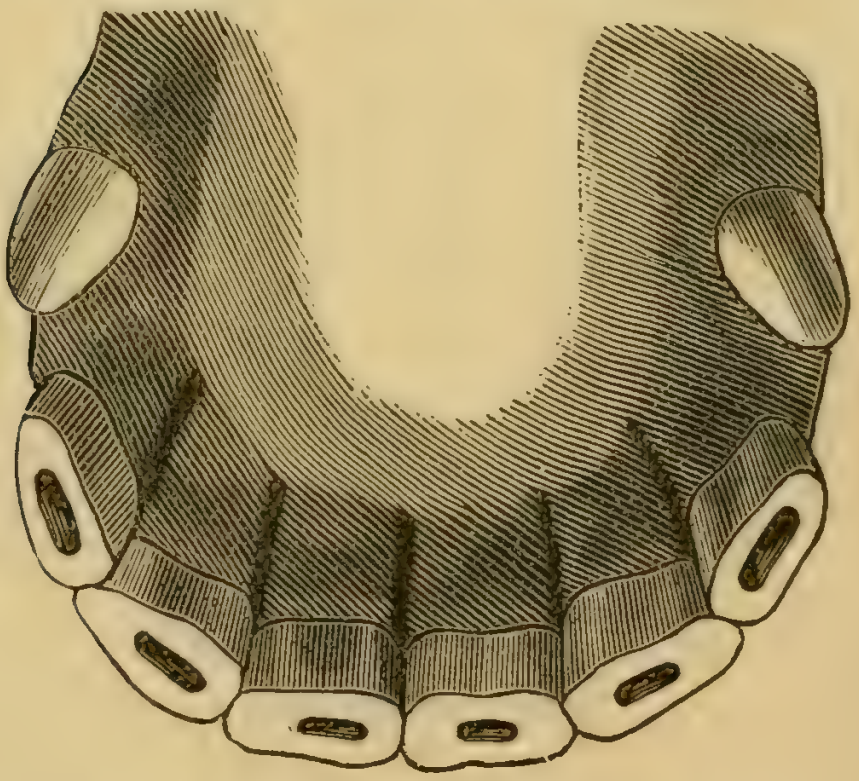

Fig. 5 SHOWS A LOWER JAW AT 7 YEARS.

they had a year previous, but they are still large. At this age, too, the tushes are completely up in the

male, but do not show any perceptible wear.

The changes from six to seven

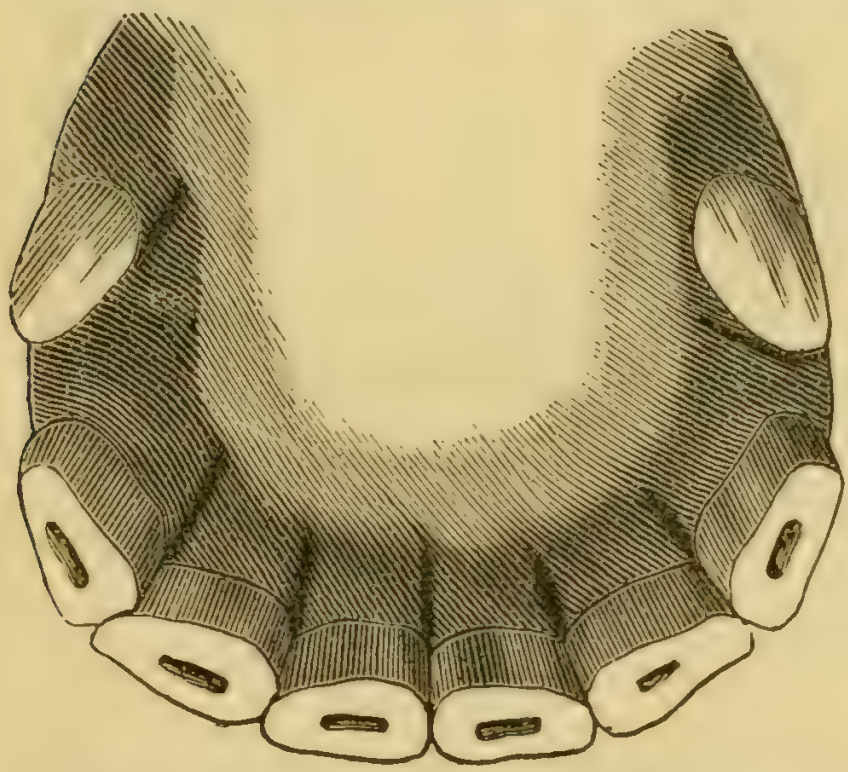

Fig. 6 SHOWS A LOWER JAW AT 8 YEARS.

years old are not very remarkable. The teeth all show more wear, and the marks are not so plain, of

course. The greatest difference is in the corner nippers, where the marks are considerably smaller than at six years, but much larger than in the central or middle pairs.

In Fig. 6, which represents the teeth at eight years of age, we see that they show about the same-sized marks; which are all quite small. As yet the teeth remain quite oval in form, but in a short time they become somewhat triangular, especially the central pair of nippers.

In Fig. 7, showing the teeth at nine years old, the marks proper have mostly disappeared, and there remains only a small black speck.

The central nippers are slightly triangular in shape. The tushes

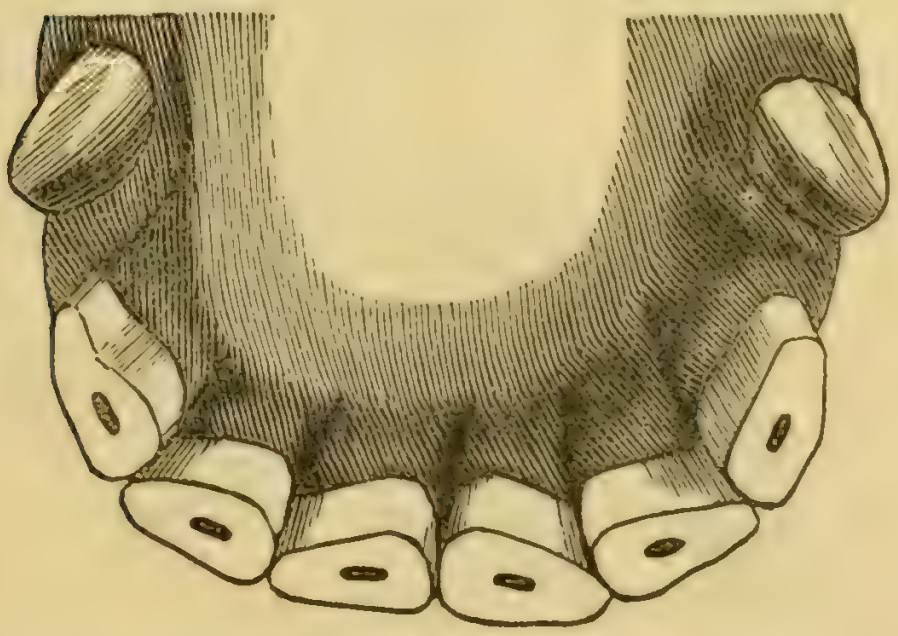

Fig. 7 SHOWS A LOWER JAW AT 9 YEARS.

are much more rounded at the points than before.

In Fig. 8, which is a side view of the front of the upper jaw

at 9 years of age, the wear to the corner nippers is shown.

In Fig. 9, showing the teeth at

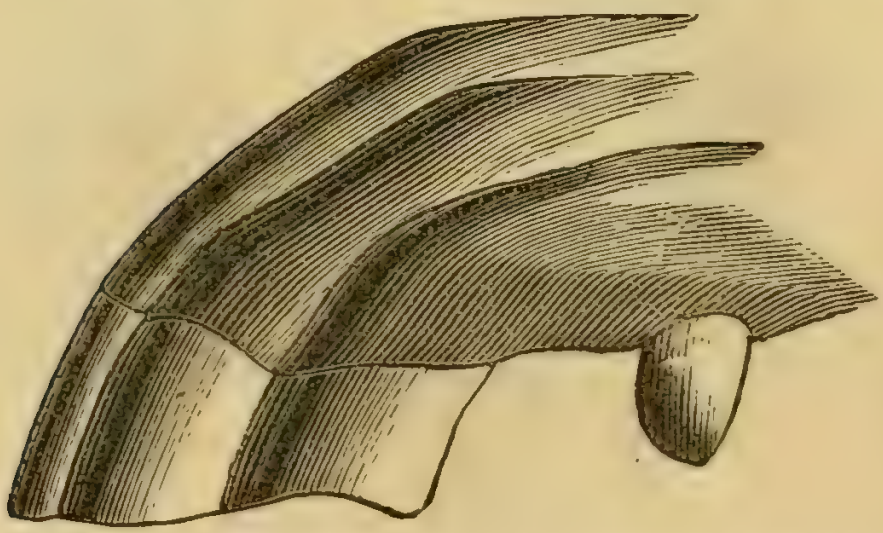

Fig. 8.—Side View of an Upper Jaw at 9 Years, showing the Wear in the Corner Nippers.

ten years of age, we see the central nippers quite triangular, with a tendency to take on that form in the middle pair. The marks

are all obliterated except a very small speck. The teeth are also longer, and project forward more than in younger horses.

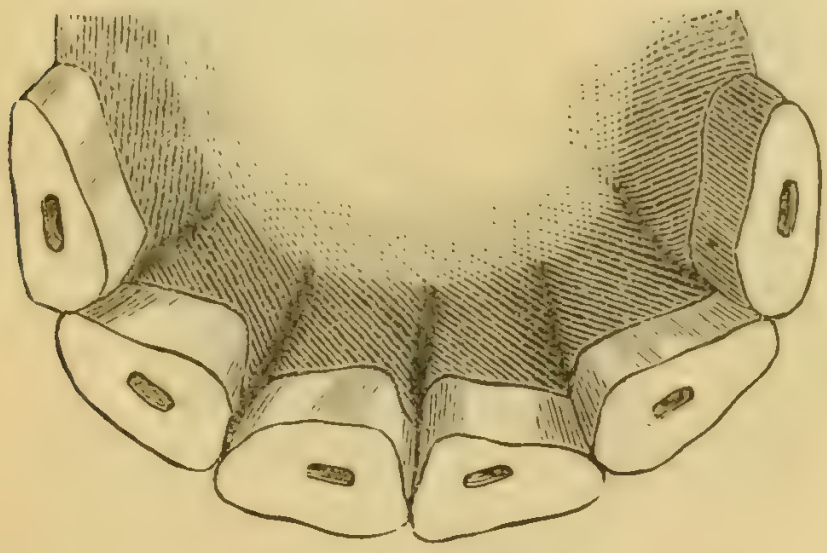

Fig. 9 SHOWS A LOWER JAW AT 10 YEARS.

The triangular shape increases in Fig. 10, eleven years old, in all the nippers, even the corner pair showing a tendency in that direc-

tion. The tushes are much rounder at the points, and the nippers are longer and project forward

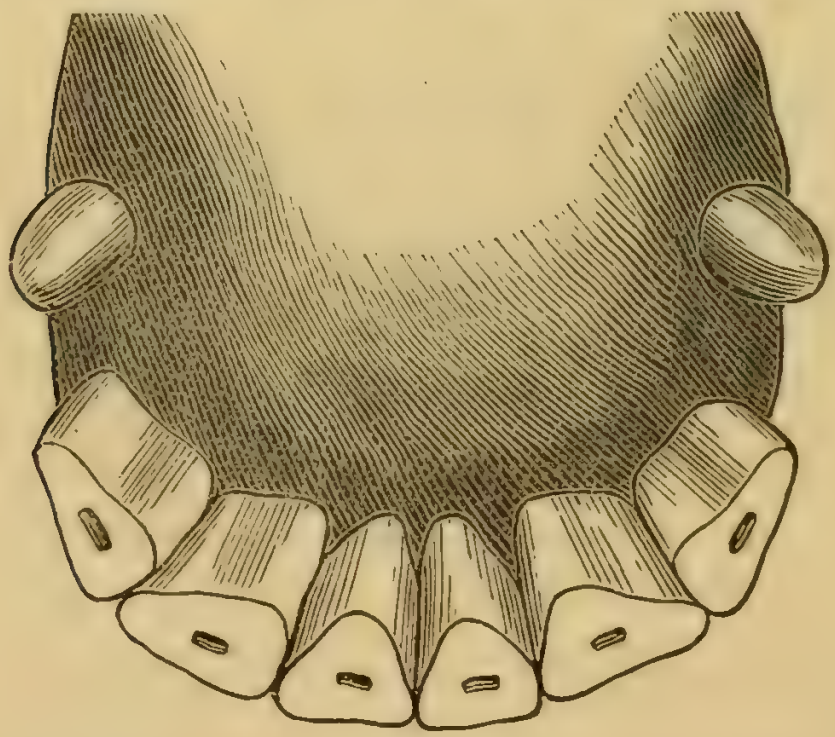

Fig. 10 shows a Lower Jaw at 11 Years.

more. We notice that the central pair are quite triangular.

The teeth grow more and more

triangular in Fig. 11, twelve years of age; and we observe in Fig. 12 a side view of the front of the up-

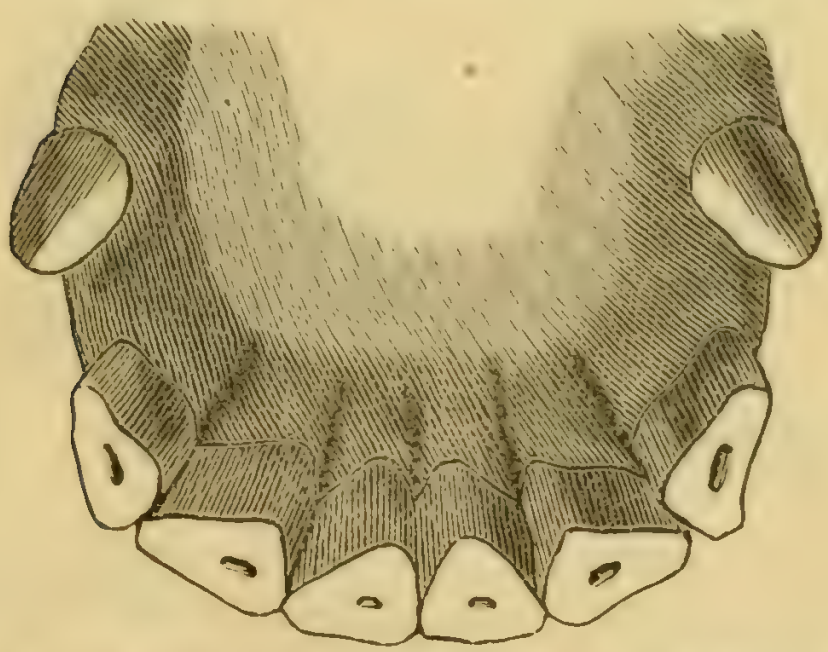

Fig. 11 SHOWS A LOWER JAW AT 12 YEARS.

per jaw, which shows the form of the corner nippers and tushes. It is seen that the front of the corner nipper is worn even with the mid-

dle pair; on the back part of the corner nipper the wear is not so pronounced, and we see a sharp elongated projection. The differ-

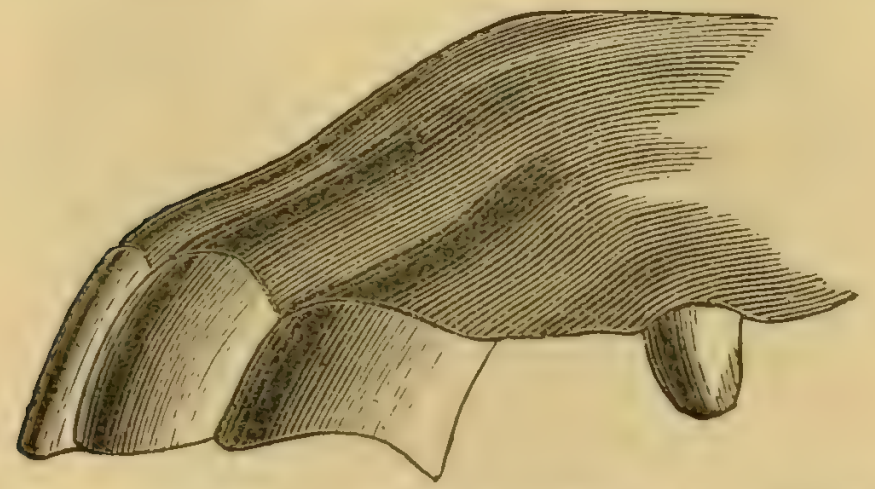

Fig. 12.—Side View of Front and Upper Jaw at 12 Years of Age, Showing the Wear of the Corner Nippers.

ence between this projection at twelve years from that at nine years, will be noticed by examining Figs. 12 and 8.

In Fig. 13, a lower jaw at thirteen years of age, there is nothing

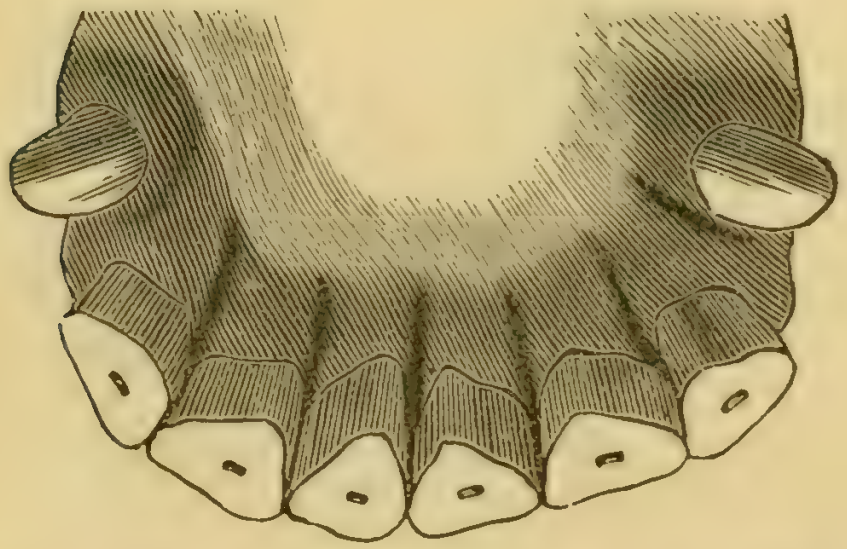

Fig. 13 SHOWS A LOWER JAW AT 13 YEARS.

in particular to note except that the triangular shape continues to increase.

In Fig. 14, showing the teeth at

fourteen years old, the nippers are somewhat longer, and project for-

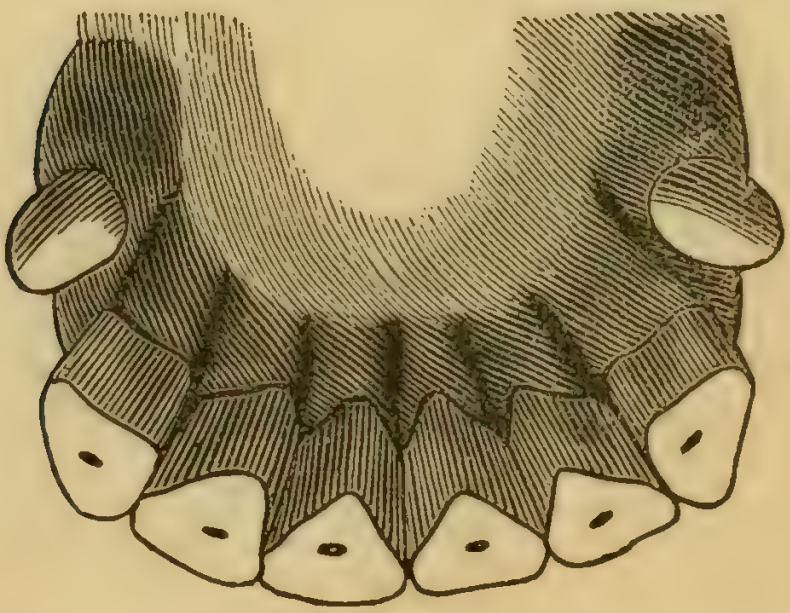

Fig. 14 SHOWS THE LOWER JAW AT 14 YEARS.

ward more and more, as they will continue to do as the animal grows older.

In Fig. 15 we see the tendency

to a triangular shape increasing, and the teeth becoming longer;

Fig. 15 SHOWS LOWER JAW AT 15 YEARS.

they also have a more oblique projection forward.

In Fig. 16, eighteen years old, the

nippers are all more triangular, the corner ones being less triangular than the others.

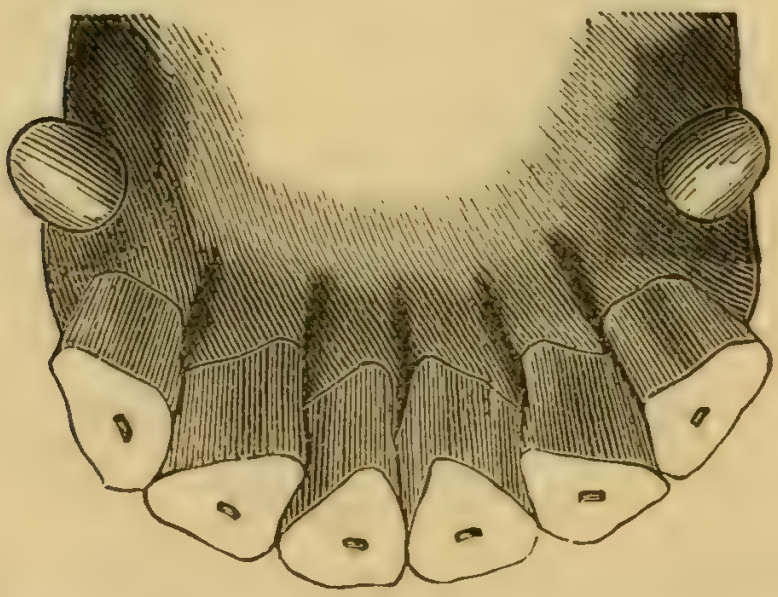

Fig. 16 SHOWS A LOWER JAW AT 18 YEARS.

In Fig. 17 the same points which have been described in the foregoing pages, will be seen to be somewhat intensified.

In an animal twenty years old (see Fig. 18) the nippers are all very triangular, very long, and

Fig. 17 SHOWS A LOWER JAW AT 19 YEARS.

project forward in a very great degree. The tushes are very round at the points.

In Fig. 19 are represented the changes in the shape of the teeth from the young to the very old animals. At *a* we see a represen-

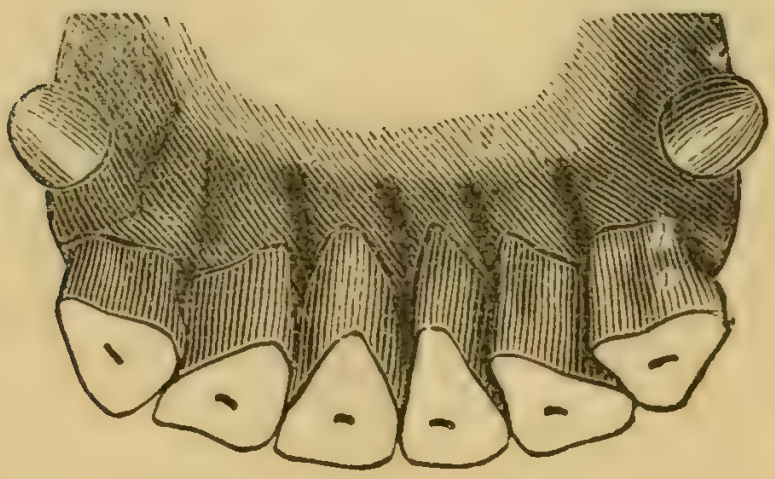

Fig. 18 SHOWS A LOWER JAW AT 20 YEARS.

tation of a central nipper at five years old; at *b* it is shown as it looks at nine years, when it becomes somewhat triangular, and has lost

the marks. At *c* we see the same tooth at the age of eighteen years. The difference in shape will be noticed at a glance.

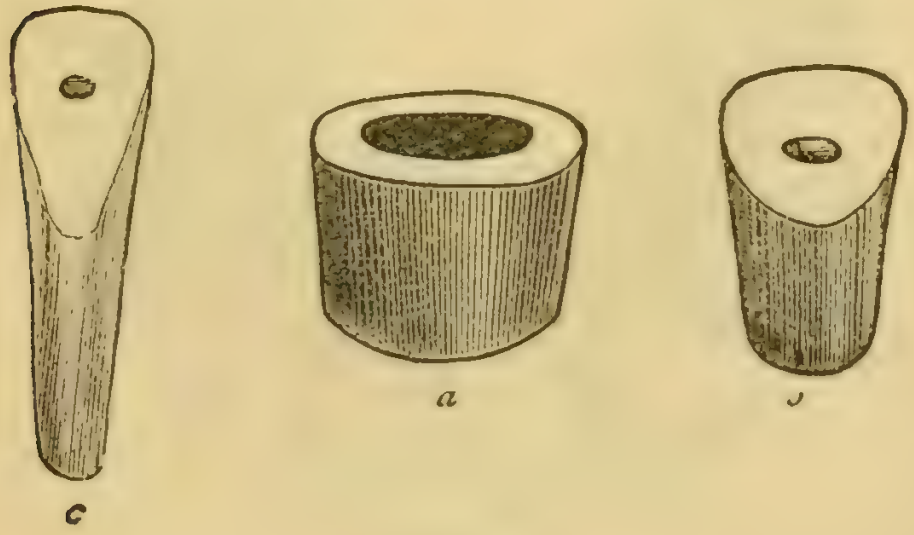

Fig. 19.

"BISHOPING."

Fig. 20 represents the nippers when they have been fixed up to resemble a young animal. This

operation, which is called "Bishoping," is very frequently resorted to by dealers, and is often very

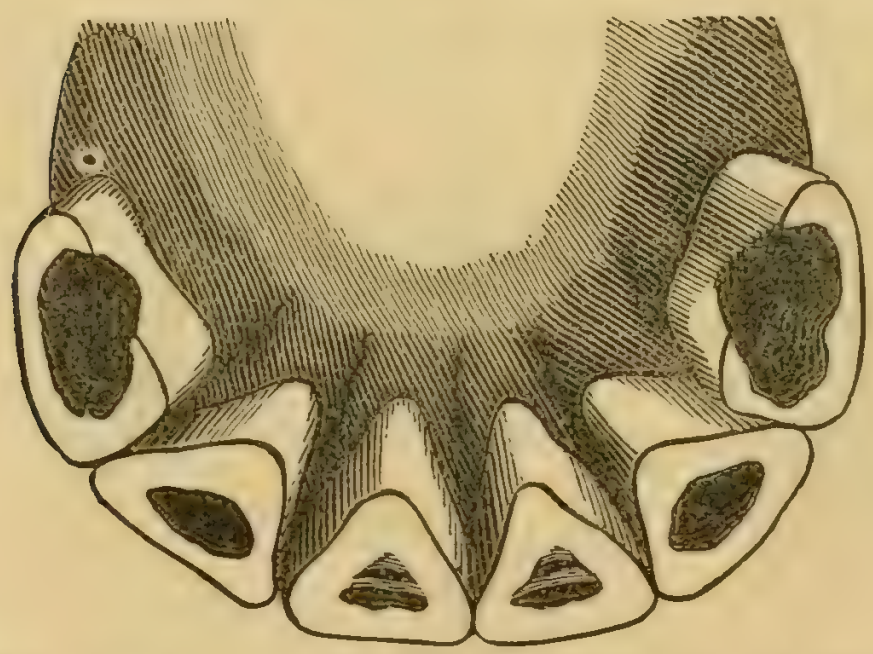

Fig. 20 REPRESENTS THE TEETH OF AN OLD HORSE CHANGED TO RESEMBLE A FIVE-YEAR-OLD.

successfully practiced. To make the marks in the teeth, or rather to make the cavity for the mark,

fine-tempered chisels and engravers' tools are used ; and when the cavity has been made deep enough and as even as possible, the black mark is burnt in by the use of nitrate of silver, or some other chemical agent. In the above illustration the marks are very uneven ; and we often find that to be the case in the "Bishoped" mouth, but sometimes the marks are very evenly placed, and to the casual observer look just like the natural marks of a five-year-old horse ; for that is the age they all try to imitate. It is easily seen that the nippers in the above figure are those of an aged animal. The central pair are

quite triangular, and the middle ones are also advanced in that direction. The corner pair are the teeth that the operator works on the most, as those are the teeth the most confidence is placed in to determine the five-year-old.

PART II.

HORSE CHARACTER.

HORSE character is a subject which as yet has received very little attention.

Although almost any experienced horseman can tell something of the disposition of a horse by looking him in the face and by the expression of his eyes, no special rules have been formulated for the guidance of a novice in such matters, and few who possess

this kind of knowledge are able to explain the methods by which they reach conclusions as to the characteristics of horses.

One man will say :

" Look out for that horse. He is treacherous."

Another will remark after an inspection of the countenance of a horse :

" You can trust him. He is gentle and kind."

Neither can tell exactly why he thinks as he does.

Some time ago there was published in the *Blacksmith and Wheelwright* a short article by Mr. Nelson Sizer, the well-known phrenologist

and author, which throws light on this interesting question, and may lead sooner or later to investigations which will be of no little value to those who seek to select horses for special purposes. We reproduce herewith the article alluded to, as well as the illustrations accompanying it :

"The horse is at once the noblest and among the most intelligent of the animal kingdom. Like the dog, he becomes fond of man, and 'shares with his lord the pleasure and pride' of companionship and achievement. Like men, horses are of various dispositions. One exhibits pride and dignity; an-

other is dull, tame, and inefficient. One is savage; another is kind.

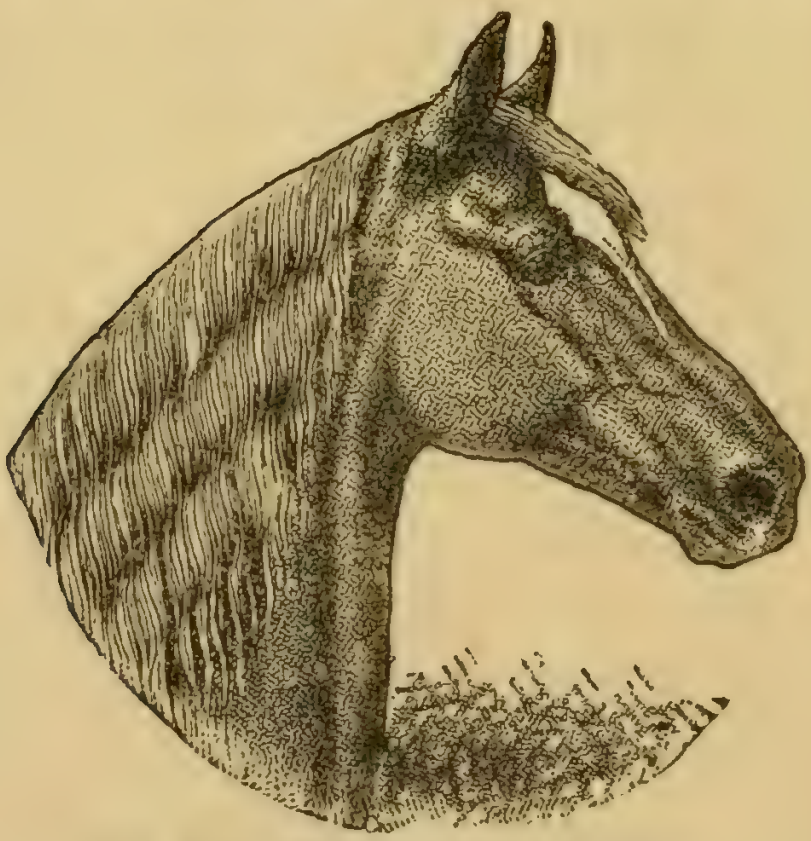

Fig. 21.—INTELLIGENT HORSE.

Head of a horse of tractable disposition, that can be taught almost anything.

One is quick to understand, while another is stupid. One has cour-

age; another is shy and timid, and therefore unreliable. There are differences in the form and expression of the face of the horse, especially in the structure and form of the head. Characteristics of this kind may be profitably studied by horsemen. In Fig. 21 of the engravings, it will be noticed there is a great width between and prominence of the eyes, which indicates a teachable and tractable horse. The width between the ears indicates courage, nobleness, and strength of character. Roundness and elevation between the eyes is a sign of mildness of disposition, and desire to be caressed and to

reciprocate kindness. A timid horse is narrow between the ears, like the deer, sheep, and rabbit.

Fig. 22.—VICIOUS AND UNTEACHABLE.
A horse of the lowest grade of intelligence.

Such an one lacks courage, and is always unreliable. A dull, unteachable horse is narrow between the eyes, and flat and contracted

above and back of them. A horse of the general characteristics indicated in Fig. 21 can be taught almost anything. Such an one trusts and loves man.

"The sketch exhibited in Fig. 22 shows in all respects a marked contrast, comparing with the figure just referred to. The intelligence of the horse represented in this figure is of the lowest sort, and is confined to self-preservation. Such a horse is comparatively destitute of kindness and tractability. He will bite, kick, shy, run away, or balk, if irritated and worried. He lacks every element of nobleness and amiability. He is fit only for

a mill or horse-boat. In monotonous lines of drudgery he may be worth keeping, but for general use he should be shunned.

"Some horses from defective vision shy at shadows or anything not dangerous. When this is the case gentleness and patience may tend to cure the habit. No horse should be whipped for stumbling and falling, or for being afraid, unless one would make the matter ten times worse."

To assist the student of horse character, we present in this connection portraits, drawn by an artist celebrated for his faithful representations of famous horses, of a number of well-known horses.

Fig. 23 is a profile portrait of Maud S., whose record of 2:10¾ is

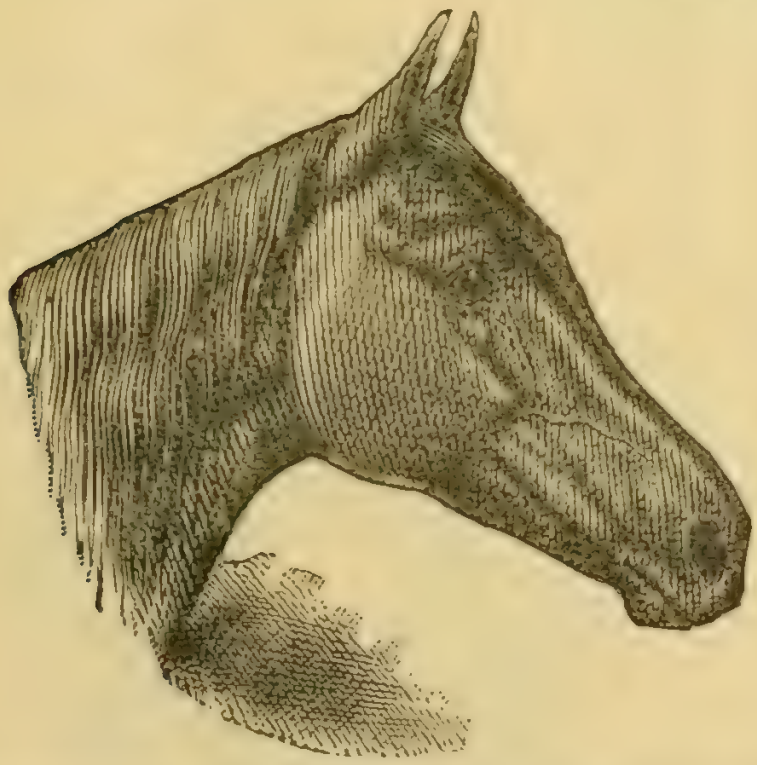

Fig. 23 IS A PROFILE VIEW OF THE CELEBRATED TROTTER, MAUD S.

known to all horsemen. She was originally owned by Capt. Stone, of Cincinnati, and was named by

him. At present she is the property of Mr. William H. Vanderbilt, of this city.

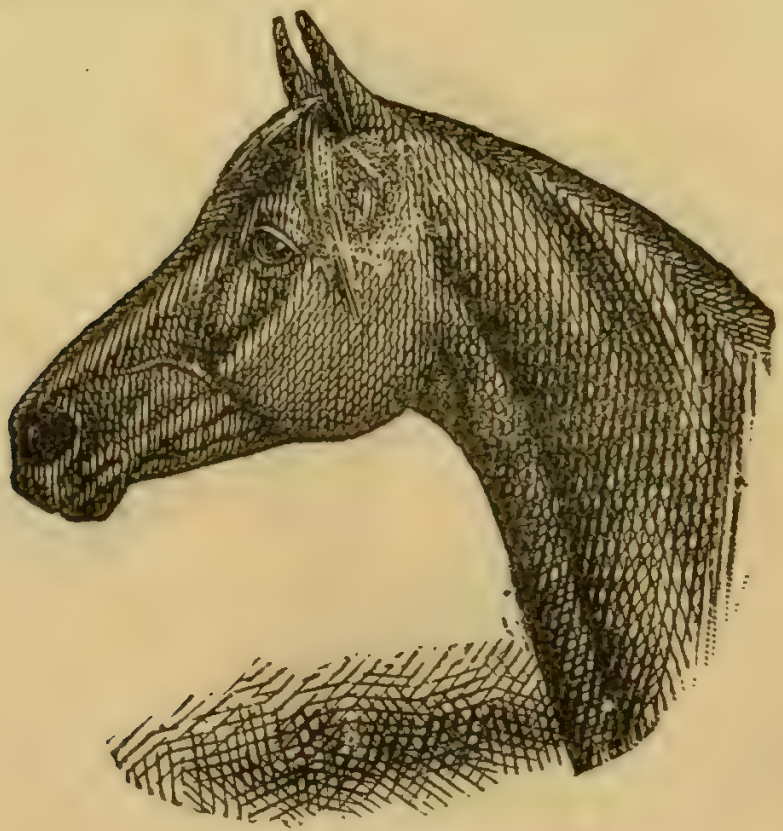

Fig. 24 IS A THOROUGH-BRED.

The thorough-bred shown in Fig. 24 is simply a typical head.

The special features presented will be recognized as those very gen-

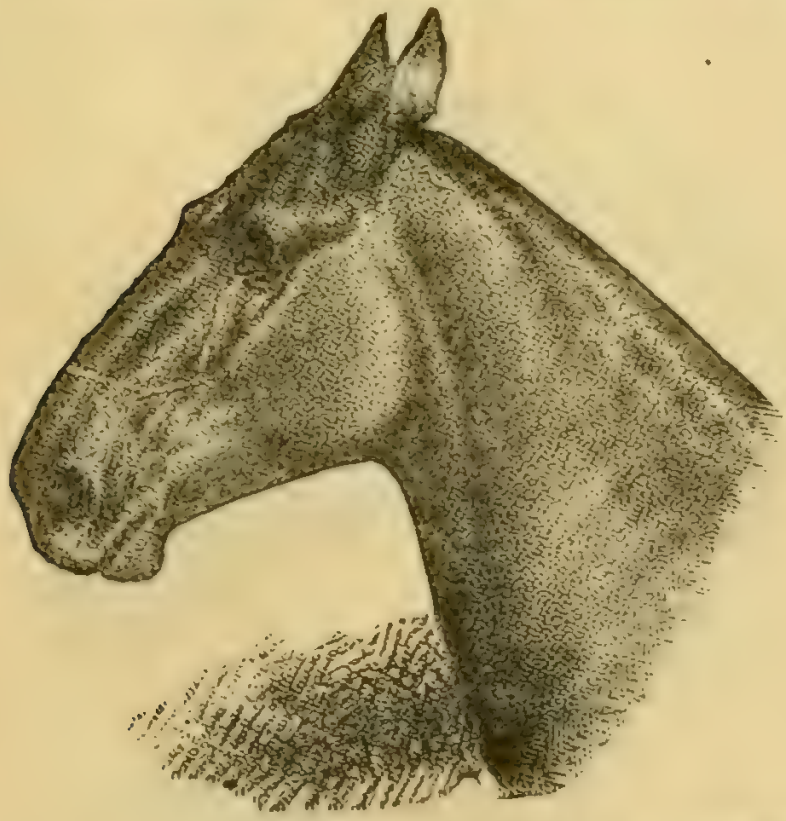

Fig. 25 IS A FINE LIKENESS OF HAMBLETONIAN.

erally met with among thoroughbred horses.

Hambletonian (Fig. 25) is the

well-known sire of Volunteer, and of many of the best trotting horses of the present day. More of the

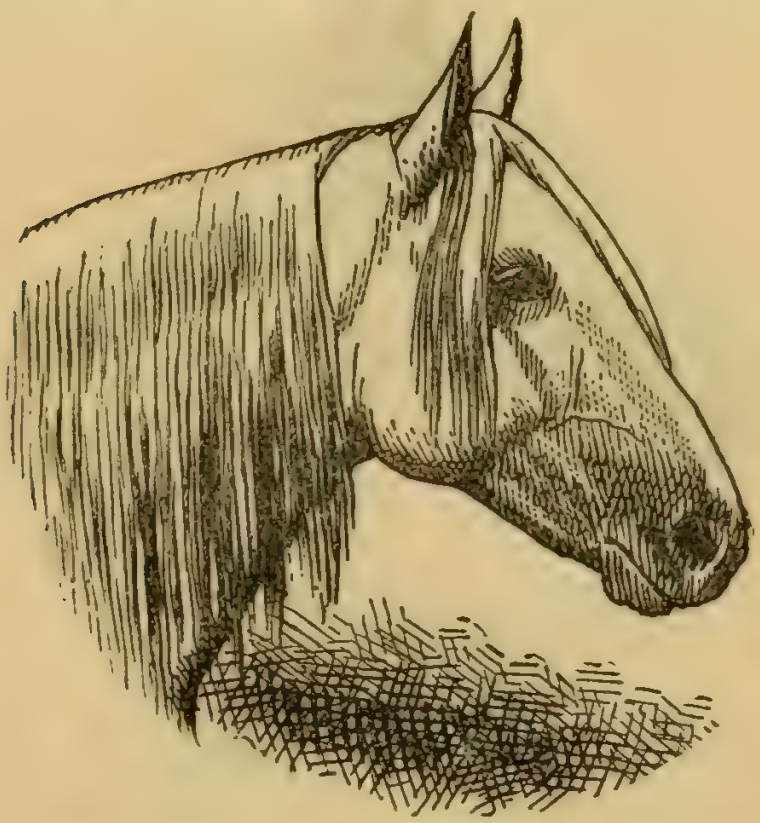

Fig. 26 REPRESENTS A FRENCH PERCHERON.

descendants of Hambletonian are to be found in the 2:30 list than of any other horse in existence.

The typical French Percheron, which we show in Fig. 26, was

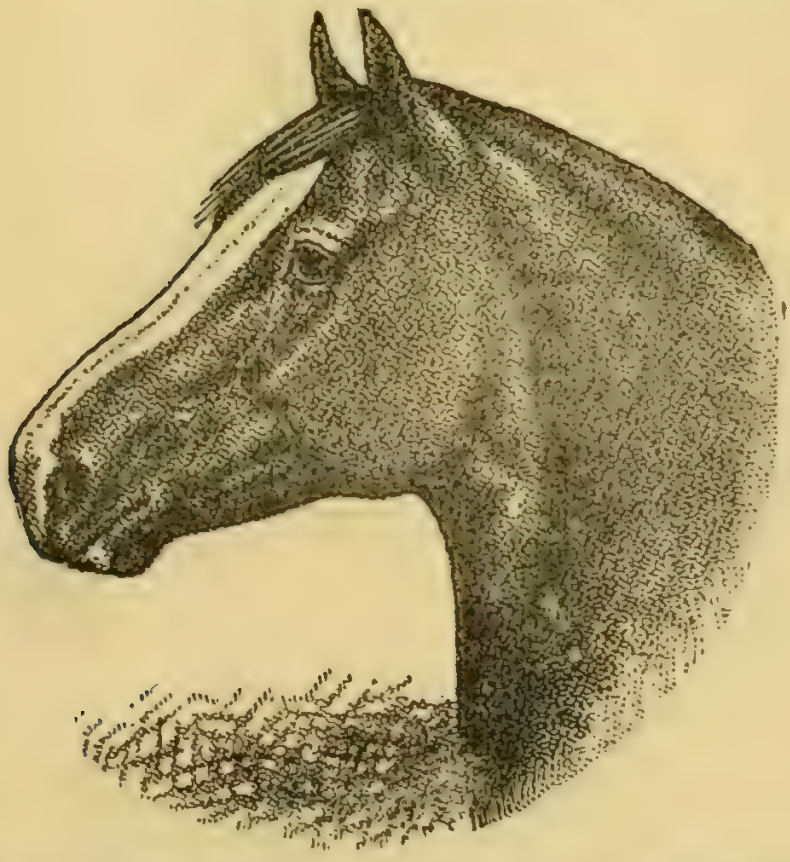

Fig. 27 IS THE HEAD OF A SCOTCH CLYDESDALE.

drawn from a photograph. The original of this picture has been

in active service in a Paris omnibus company for a number of years.

Fig. 28 SHOWS THE STALLION, BLACK HENRY

A typical Scotch Clydesdale is shown in Fig. 27. This is a favorite

draft horse, heavier in weight than the French Percheron, and quite largely imported into this country for breeding purposes and for crossing with the view of obtaining desirable draft horses.

Black Henry (Fig. 28) is of the Clay breed. He is a son of the well-known stallion Henry Clay; a stallion possessing many points of excellence.

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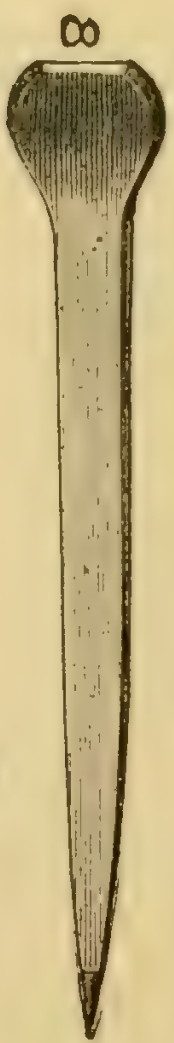

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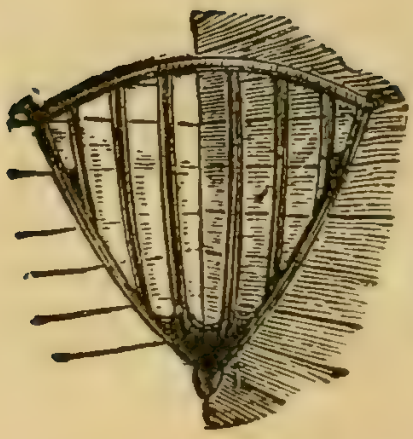

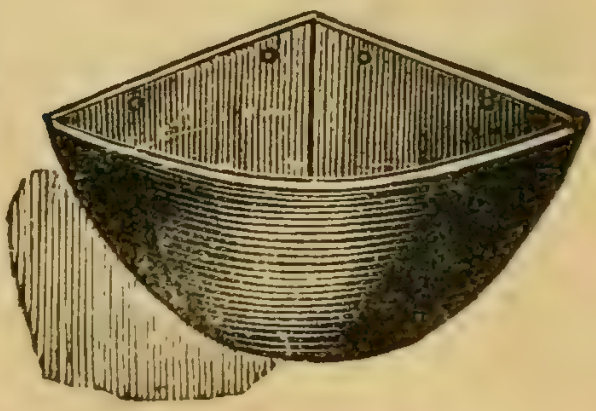

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